be justified by the experience. When anything went wrong with convoyed ships, it was reported with an " I told you so " air to the War Cabinet. I can find no minute where the First Sea Lord reported the unquestionable success of the system in cases where it was fairly tried. There was a Cabinet meeting held a week or two after the decision to experiment in convoying. It was attended amongst others by Admiral Jellicoe, Admiral Duff, Sir William Robertson and Commander Henderson. *My insistence* j listened to the Admiralty argument on *Gibraltar* convoy escorts in the form of cruisers and destroyers, but I insisted on their giving a trial to the Gibraltar convoy. The First Sea Lord at this meeting held forth as to the necessity of maintaining the Grand Fleet destroyers up to the number of 100 and the Harwich Force as constituted.

He maintained that these destroyers were necessary to fulfil the Cabinet's instructions given to the Admiralty and to the Commander-in-Chief in regard to battle with the German High Seas Fleet, and if destroyers were withdrawn then the general instructions to the higher command must be revised.

Commander Henderson said that he considered that if convoys could be put into being forthwith, it would probably take Germany three months to discover the best method of locating and attacking, during which period we should have further time for

thought and for construction. After this discussion it was decided to try the first experimental convoy from Gibraltar to *The fast* the United Kingdom. Ships from the *experiments* Mediterranean to the East Coast were held up for four days from the 6th May, till on the loth, a convoy of 17 steamers started under